

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 108, “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers.

The amendments add Adair, Cass, Guthrie, Keokuk, Louisa, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Warren and Washington Counties to the open area for taking bobcats and increase the quota from 200 to 250.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on April 7, 2010, as **ARC 8685B**. A public hearing was held on April 27, 2010. Comments were received both in support of increasing the quota and the open area for taking bobcat and asking that the season be closed. Department staff believe that the proposed changes are conservative and warranted based upon Department surveys and that allowing Iowa’s hunters and trappers the opportunity to take additional animals will not impact bobcat populations. No changes were made to the amendments published under Notice.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, and 481A.90.

These amendments shall become effective August 18, 2010.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 108.7(2) as follows:

108.7(2) Open area. River otters may be taken statewide. Bobcats may be taken in the following counties: Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Cass, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Woodbury.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **108.7(3)“b”** as follows:

b. Quotas. The quota for the number of river otters that may be taken is 500 statewide. The quota for the number of bobcats that may be taken is ~~200~~ 250 in the open area. The season shall end for river otters when the number of river otters trapped, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches 500. The season shall end for bobcats when the number of bobcats taken, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~200~~ 250. Trappers shall be allowed a 48-hour grace period after the quota is reached to clear their traps of river otters or bobcats. River otters or bobcats found in traps during the grace period may be kept even though the quota is exceeded provided that the trapper has not reached the trapper’s personal bag limit. River otters or bobcats trapped after the grace period or in excess of the seasonal bag limit must be turned over to the department; the trapper shall not be penalized.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 6/30/10.